Import of Animal Products

*519. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of animal products imported from 1st April, 2001, to date, category-wise;

(b) the details of cases in which the imported animal products were found to be unfit for consumption; and

(c) the extent of damage caused to domestic industry due to these imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Animal products are classified under Chapter 1 to 5 of ITC (HS) Classifications of export and import items. The detailed item-wise import data for these items for the period 1st April 2001 onwards has not yet been finalised. However, according to the provisional estimates for April - May, 2001 imports of Poultry had been 0.1 ton and that of milk and milk products 51 tons.

(b) In order to enable the Government to take necessary action to protect the health of the human and animal health population of the Country, the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Bill has been passed in 2001. As per the amendment, the imports are permitted only against sanitary import permits issued after the conduct of import risk analysis with regard to the disease status of the exporting country *vis-a-vis* our own disease status.

(c) This level of imports is not significant enough to cause any serious damage to domestic industry.

Sending of Dollars Abroad through Parcels

†520. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of sending dollars abroad through parcels is gaining momentum in the country;

(b) if so, whether some persons have recently been arrested in this connection;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to curb this practice and take action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.